

Amendments to the Claims:

Please amend the claims as indicated.

1. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for communicating control messages between a media library manager~~first device~~ and a storage device~~second device~~, comprising:
 - a communication module configured to direct control messages between [[a]]~~the media library manager~~first device~~ and [[a]]the storage device~~second device~~~~ through a[[n]] host~~intermediate device~~, the host~~intermediate device~~ coupled to the media library manager~~first device~~ by a control path and to the storage device~~second device~~ by a data path;
 - a translation module configured to distinguish control messages received over the control path at the host by detecting an identifier in the header of the control messages, translate control messages received over the control path at the intermediate device to transport data messages, and transport data messages received over the data path at the storage device~~second device~~ to control messages, wherein each transport data message comprises a Send Simulated Library Message (SSLIM) Small Computer Systems Interface (SCSI) Command Descriptor Block (CDB) that encapsulates a control message in an unaltered form; and
 - a transmission module configured to send transport data messages over the data path to the storage device~~second device~~ and control messages from the

storage devices~~second device~~ over the control path to the media library manager~~first device~~.

2. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising the media library manager~~first device~~ polling a storage devices~~second device~~ for a response control message subsequent to sending a control message to the storage devices~~second device~~.

3. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising the host~~intermediate device~~ periodically polling a plurality of storage devices~~second devices~~ coupled to the data path for control messages for the media library manager~~first device~~.

4. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising a storage~~second~~ device notifying the host~~intermediate device~~ of a control message for the media library manager~~first device~~ and the host~~intermediate device~~ transferring the control message from the storage devices~~second device~~ to the media library manager~~first device~~ in response to a message from the media library manager~~first device~~.

5. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the media library manager~~first device~~ and storage devices~~second device~~ are configured to exchange control messages with [[an]]~~the host~~~~intermediate device~~.

6. (Canceled)

7. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for communicating control messages between a media library managerecontroller and a storage device, comprising:

a media library managerecontroller configured to direct control messages for a plurality of storage devices over a host control path;

a[[n]] hostintermediate device coupled to the host control path and configured to distinguish control messages received over the host control path at the host by detecting an identifier in the header of the control messages, transmit control messages received over the host control path as transport data messages on a data path connecting the hostintermediate device to the plurality of storage devices, wherein each transport data message comprises a SSLIM SCSI CDB that encapsulates the control message in an unaltered form, and transport data messages received over the data path as control messages on the host control path connecting the hostintermediate device to the media library managerecontroller; and

wherein the plurality of storage devices are configured to translate transport data messages received over the data path into control messages and control messages for the media library managerecontroller into transport data messages comprising a Receive Simulated Library Message (RSLIM) SCSI CDB that encapsulates the control message for transmission over the data path to the hostintermediate device.

8. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 7, wherein the media library managerecontroller is configured to poll a storage device for a response control message subsequent to sending a control message to the storage device.

9. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 7, wherein the hostintermediate device periodically polls the storage devices coupled to the data path for control messages for the media library managerecontroller.

10. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 7, wherein a storage device notifies the hostintermediate device of a control message for the media library managerecontroller and the hostintermediate device transfers the control message from the storage devicesecond device to the media library managerecontroller in response to a message from the media library managerecontroller.

11. (Canceled)

12. (Currently Amended) A system for communicating control messages between a media library manager and a storage device over a data path, comprising:

 a media library comprising [[a]]the media library manager configured to automatically mount and unload media cartridges; and

 a host configured to communicate over a host control path with the media library manager to access data on a specific media cartridge and to communicate with one or more storage devices over a data path to exchange data, the host further configured to relay control messages between the media library manager

library manager and the plurality of storage devices by distinguishing control messages by detecting an identifier in the header of the control messages, translating between control messages and transport data messages, wherein each storage device bound transport data message comprises a SSLIM SCSI CDB that encapsulates a control message in an unaltered form and each library media manager bound transport data message comprises a RSLIM SCSI CDB that encapsulates a control message, the transport data messages traveling over the data path and the control messages traveling over the host control path.

13. (Original) The system of claim 12, wherein the media library manager polls the storage devices for a response control message subsequent to sending a control message to the storage device.

14. (Original) The system of claim 12, wherein the host periodically polls the storage devices coupled to the data path for control messages for the media library manager.

15. (Original) The system of claim 12, wherein a storage device notifies the host of a control message for the media library manager and the host transfers the control message from the storage device to the media library manager in response to a message from the media library manager.

16. (Original) The system of claim 12, wherein the media library manager is configured to exchange control messages for storage devices over the host control path instead of a direct communication link to the storage devices.

17. (Original) The system of claim 12, wherein the host is configured to function as a storage device controller integrated within the media library and coupled to a plurality of storage devices that have no direct communication link to the media library manager.

18. (Canceled)

19. (Currently Amended) A method for communicating control messages between a media library manager~~first device~~ and a storage~~second~~ device, comprising:

directing control messages between [[a]]~~the media library manager~~first device and [[a]]~~the storage~~second device through a[[n]] host~~intermediate~~ device, the host~~intermediate~~ device coupled to the media library manager~~first device~~ by a control path and to the storage~~second~~ device by a data path;

distinguishing control messages received over the control path by detecting an identifier in the header of the control messages;

~~the intermediate device~~ translating control messages received over the control path to transport data messages, wherein each transport data message comprises a SSLIM SCSI CDB that encapsulates the control message in an unaltered form, and transport data messages received over the data path

and comprising a RSLIM SCSI CDB that encapsulates a control message to the control message[[s]]; sending transport data messages over the data path to the storage~~second~~ device and control messages from the storage~~second~~ device over the control path to the media library manager~~first device~~; and translating transport data messages received by the storage~~second~~ device into control messages.

20. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 19, further comprising the media library manager~~controller~~ polling a storage device for a response control message subsequent to sending a control message to the storage device.

21. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 19, further comprising the host~~intermediate device~~ periodically polling storage devices coupled to the data path for control messages for the media library manager~~controller~~.

22. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 19, further comprising: notifying the host~~intermediate device~~ of a control message for the media library manager~~controller~~; and transferring the control message from the storage device to the media library manager~~controller~~ in response to a message from the media library manager~~controller~~.

23. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 19, further comprising:
configuring a media library manager~~controller~~ and a storage device to exchange
control messages through [[an]]~~the host~~intermediate device.

24. (Canceled)

25. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for communicating control messages between
a media library manager~~first~~ device and a storage~~second~~ device, comprising:
means for directing control messages between [[a]]~~the media library manager~~first
~~device~~ and [[a]]~~the storage~~second device through a[[n]] host~~intermediate~~
~~device~~, the host~~intermediate~~ device coupled to the media library
~~manager~~first device by a control path and the storage~~second~~ device by a
data path;
means for translating control messages received over the control path to transport
data messages, wherein each transport data message comprises a SSLIM
SCSI CDB that encapsulates the control message in an unaltered form, and
transport data messages received over the data path to control messages;
means for sending transport data messages over the data path to the storage~~second~~
device and control messages from the storage~~second~~ device over the
control path to the media library manager~~first~~ device; and
means for translating transport data messages received by the storage~~second~~
device into control messages.

26. (Original) The apparatus of claim 25, further comprising means for polling a storage device for a response control message subsequent to sending a control message to the storage device.

27. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 25, further comprising means for polling storage devices coupled to the data path for control messages for the media library manager controller.

28. (Currently Amended) An article of manufacture comprising a program storage medium readable by a processor and embodying one or more instructions executable by a processor to perform a method for communicating control messages between a media library manager first device and a storage second device, the method comprising:

directing control messages between [[a]]the media library managerfirst device and
[[a]]the storagesecond device through a[[n]] hostintermediate device, the
hostintermediate device coupled to the [[a]]the media library managerfirst
device by a control path and the storagesecond device by a data path;
distinguishing control messages received over the control path by detecting an
identifier in the header of the control messages;
translating the control messages received over the control path to transport data
messages, wherein each transport data message comprises a SSLIM SCSI
CDB that encapsulates the control message in an unaltered form, and
transport data messages received over the data path and comprising a
RSLIM SCSI CDB that encapsulates a control message to the control

message[[s]];

sending transport data messages over the data path to the storage~~second~~ device and control messages from the storage~~second~~ device over the control path to the media library manager~~first device~~; and translating transport data messages received by the storage~~second~~ device into control messages.

29. (Original) The article of manufacture of claim 28, wherein the method further comprises polling a storage device for a response control message subsequent to sending a control message to the storage device.

30. (Currently Amended) The article of manufacture of claim 28, wherein the method further comprises the host~~intermediate~~ device polling storage devices coupled to the data path for control messages for the media library manager~~controller~~.